

16. (Amended) The isolated zinc finger-nucleotide binding polypeptide variant of claim 2, comprising at least three zinc finger modules wherein at least one module binds to a cellular nucleotide sequence and wherein said variant binds a polynucleotide sequence different from a sequence bound by a zinc finger-nucleotide binding polypeptide not having amino acid sequence modification.
42. (Amended) A hybrid zinc finger protein that binds to a target nucleic acid, the hybrid zinc finger comprising zinc fingers from a first protein linked to zinc fingers from a second protein different from the first protein, wherein the hybrid zinc finger binds a polynucleotide sequence different from a sequence bound by individual modules of the first protein and the second protein and wherein the amino acid sequence of each zinc finger protein that binds a target nucleic acid comprises two cysteines and two histidines, whereby both cysteines are amino proximal to both histidines.